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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/047,852

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Daniel A. Hilbrich

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EXAMINER

ALEXANDER, REGINALD

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3742

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/13/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/047,852	Applicant(s) HILBRICH, DANIEL A.	
	Examiner Reginald L. Alexander	Art Unit 3742	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 23 November 2007.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-12, 14-21 and 23-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 10-12, 14-21 and 23-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, 14-18, 21, 23-25, 27 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. in view of Giuliano.

There is disclosed in Smith a filtering device 10, comprising: a spout 24 to deliver heated water under elevated pressure (col. 3, lines 52-56) to coffee beans; a receptacle (col. 2, lines 22-27) to receive brewed filtered coffee; means 37, 38 defining a flow path between the beans to the receptacle; a metallic (permanent) filter 44 in the path of heated coffee; and a filter layer 42, the filter optionally being of filter paper (col. 4, lines 51 and 52) in the path of the heated coffee, the filter being of a thickness sufficient to remove and trap lipids. The filtering device is disclosed for use with various types of coffee makers, i.e. espresso coffee makers.

It should be noted that while Smith discloses element 44 as a “foraminous support”, such functions as a filtering element. Thus, contrary to the view point presented in the Affidavit submitted July 9, 1999, there are two different filtering elements disclosed in Smith. The permanent or metallic filter 44 provides support for an additional filtering element 42 which, as discussed above, can be a layer of filter paper.

Giuliano discloses, in an espresso-type coffee maker, a permanent filter 96 having apertures sizes of 0.3 mm or less.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the permanent filter of Smith with that taught in Giuliano, in order to further prevent the passage of coffee grounds particles.

Smith, as discussed above, discloses all of the claimed subject matter except the desired lipid removal value. Applicant has failed to disclose any particular chemical makeup of the filter paper which would allow it to have the absorbency characteristics described in the claims. It is known in the art that the presence of fats (lipids) from the coffee grounds can make for an undesirable taste in the final coffee product. Thus, the use of filter paper for the removal of fats to improve the taste of coffee. An increase in the amount of fats removed from the coffee grounds, and therefor a better taste, can be clearly linked to the thickness or number of filter paper layers used in the filter. In regards to the claims, it would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to achieve, with the Smith reference, the desired fats removal from the coffee grounds, for the reasons set forth in the comments above and since it has been held that discovering an optimum value of a result effective variable involves only routine skill in the art.

Claims 2, 3, 6, 19, 20 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Smith et al. in view of Giuliano as applied to claims above, and further in view of Krebs.

Krebs discloses that it is known in the art to form a filter 10 of multiple layers 12, 14. It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art to modify the construction of the Smith

filter 42, as modified by Giuliano, with that taught by Krebs and form it of multiple layers, in order to improve the efficiency of the filter. The formation of multiple layers together by crimping is an obvious matter of design choice, since the over all effectiveness of the filter is not contingent upon the way the layers are formed together.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Reginald L. Alexander whose telephone number is 571-272-1395. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Milton Cano can be reached on 571-272-1398. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Reginald L. Alexander/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 3742
31 January 2008